

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re patent application of:)
Barber et al.) Before the Examiner
)
10 Serial No. New) Group Art Unit
)
Filed: New)
PEST CONTROL TECHNIQUES) March 20, 2001
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

20

Honorable Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

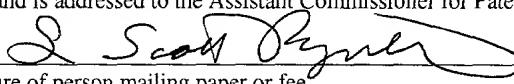
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Sir:

Please enter the following Preliminary Amendment for the above-entitled patent application. Please charge any fees due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but not to include issue fees.

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Express Mail Label No. EL271152472US Date of Deposit: March 20, 2001
I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR §1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.


Signature of person mailing paper or fee

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please add the following paragraph and section heading immediately after the title
5 of the application on page 1 of the specification.

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present Application is a continuation of International Patent Application
10 Number PCT/US99/16519 filed July 21, 1999.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 11, 15, and 63 as follows:

11. (Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the information from the first one of the
pest control devices includes a pest control device identifier and a bait status indication.

15. (Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the pest control devices each include an
edible bait member for one or more species of pest, and further comprising evaluating bait
25 status information obtained from each of the pest control devices with the interrogator to
identify which of the pest control devices have attracted the one or more species of pest.

63. (Amended) The method of claim 62, further comprising sending data to the wireless communication device from the sensor for each of the pest control devices and comparing the data to pest activity in the pest control devices.

5 Please add claims 68-81 as follows:

68. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the pest control device is installed with a bait including a pesticide.

10 69. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the first one of the pest control devices is installed with a bait member including a pesticide.

70. (New) The method of claim 15, further comprising predicting future behavior of the one or more species of pest from said evaluating.

15 71. (New) The device of claim 16, wherein said at least one bait member includes a pesticide.

72. (New) The device of claim 16, wherein said at least one bait member includes a
20 monitoring bait.

73. (New) The method of claim 63, further comprising predicting pest behavior based on said comparing.

74. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein the bait includes a pesticide.

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75. (New) A pest control device, comprising: at least one bait member operable to be consumed or displaced by one or more species of pest and an RF transponder responsive to a wireless stimulation signal to transmit information about the pest control device.

10 76. (New) The device of claim 75, wherein said RF transponder is passive.

77. (New) The device of claim 75, wherein said RF transponder includes an active RF circuit.

15 78. (New) The device of claim 75, further comprising an electrically conductive loop coupled to said RF transponder, said loop being arranged to be altered during consumption or displacement of said bait member to provide a status signal having a first state indicating said loop is electrically closed and a second state indicating said loop is electrically open.

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79. The device of claim 75, wherein said RF transponder is passive and further comprising an active RF communication circuit.

80. The device of claim 75, wherein said at least one bait member includes a pesticide.

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81. The device of claim 75, wherein said at least one bait member is of a monitoring type consumable or displaceable by at least one variety of termite.

REMARKS

The present application is a continuation of International Patent Application Number PCT/US99/16519 filed July 21, 1999. The first paragraph of the specification has
5 been amended to reflect this status. Dependent claims 11, 15, and 63 have each been amended to broaden the respective subject matter claimed. Claims 68-81 have been added. It is believed claims 1-81 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the present application as amended is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted:



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ATTACHMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.121

Attached on a separate page(s) are the mark-up amendments to claims 11, 15, and

5 63 per 37 CFR 1.121 as follows:

11. (Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein [the pest control device includes a bait member and] the information from the first one of the pest control devices includes a pest control device identifier and a bait status indication.

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15. (Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the pest control devices each include an edible bait member for one or more species of pest, and further comprising evaluating bait status information obtained from each of the pest control devices with the interrogator to identify which of the pest control devices have attracted the one or more species of pest [and predicting future behavior of the one or more species of pest from said evaluating].

63. (Amended) The method of claim 62, further comprising sending data to the wireless communication device from the sensor for each of the pest control devices[,] and comparing the data to pest activity in the pest control devices[, and predicting pest behavior based on said comparing].